



# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

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# Thwarted intentions...how about economic accommodations?



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

My life has taken such different turns from those of Groundcover News vendors that putting myself in their shoes has been hard for me. The shoes fit a bit more easily as I age and live with some of the physical discomforts that many of them face. But living a week with my 91-year-old father recently, I regularly experienced the thwarted intentions I hear about so often from vendors.

The causes were different – deteriorating eyesight, hearing, mental agility and energy in my father's case – but the results were similar: exhaustion and an inability to get to the necessary

places to get things done. You might wonder why I did not do more of the driving, navigating and cooking. Age has tempered my father's stubbornness and insistence on being in control, but his basic nature remains unchanged and at times asserts itself.

I would start out the day waiting for him to awaken and join me for breakfast. If he had his heart set on something special, like poached eggs with corned beef hash, he cooked them the way he liked. While I cleaned up, he attended to his bills and tilted at the windmills of technology updates. Rising from the desk to dress for the day was a chore, soon followed by the need to rest. And then it was lunch time. He'd eat the sandwich I made, telling me all the things we needed to do, then resign himself to taking the nap he required so desperately. When he awoke, there would finally be an hour or two to get something done. In my father's life, this is likely to be taking a swim or going grocery shopping, both of which are readily accessible nearby.

After dinner he would usually have energy to go out. Getting to the destination was another matter. The GPS was often programmed inaccurately as he struggled with the little buttons and the plethora of places in New Jersey with similar names. One night we ended up in Union City, 34 miles from the play we set out to see in Union.

Even when the GPS was programmed correctly, the strange pronunciations of street names and difficulty in reading street signs, combined with the ambient noise of driving which exacerbated the effects of his hearing loss, made finding places – even those he had been to before – a challenge.

The challenges are similar for the economically marginalized. Their diminished power and resources have an economic component. They often rely on public transportation and are at the mercy of its schedules and delays. For those with limited access to and familiarity with technology, finding a route and mode of transportation to get to a new place can take hours. Car services like Uber are not an option, even in special circumstances, because they require a credit card.

Once they arrive, they battle bureaucracy from a weakened position. They often cannot produce required docu-

mentation, possibly because they don't have an address or they have moved so often that their important paperwork has been lost along the way. Sometimes it was discarded when its owner was unable to pay a storage bill for several months.

If they do have what they need, they are often depleted by the process of gathering it. It may have taken days of waiting in lines in the records departments of government agencies, or gathering belongings from storage lockers or

basements of friends and relatives, each of which took multiple bus rides to reach. And each of these trips had costs: the direct cost of the ride and the indirect costs of wages lost during these hours, which may result in being

unable to pay for a place to sleep that night – putting the hard-won paperwork in jeopardy of being stolen or ruined by weather.

Daily, people have to choose between waiting around for an interview for a better job and making enough to eat and sleep that day. Or, between the many hours it will take them to open a bank account and the risk of having their money stolen again.

Disabilities or educational deficits impose further obstacles. People often do not know what is expected and they can't afford to hire a professional to negotiate the process for them. Seek-

ing housing or government assistance or responding to a summons becomes a Herculean task that, if accomplished at all, takes months or years, during which time inner and outer resources are sapped.

The recent move in the State of Michigan to defund the case management aspect of health care has made this frustration a regular experience for the most fragile of the low-income community. They must now work out on their own how to get to their medical appointments and fill their prescriptions. Some won't make it.

Instead of their prescribed mood-stabilizing pharmaceuticals, they will self-medicate with readily available alcohol and street drugs. Or they will never get to the physical therapist for the stretching and strengthening needed to overcome their injury and instead join the ranks of the long-term unemployed.

We have come a long way as a country in accommodating people with special physical needs with sidewalk cuts and elevators. Extending that mentality to adapting requirements and offering services for those who are economically challenged would enable many more to fully function in our world.

**GROUNDCOVER MISSION:**  
*Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.*

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## Remember the plastic



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell  
Groundcover Contributor

In health care, we frequently employ a simple scale of 1-10 for people to self-assess the pain they have. It is a generally helpful and easy tool to use. Of late, I have wondered if a comparable tool could assist us in keeping track of the level of our patience. Some of us are more naturally patient than others, and particular circumstances try our patience to what seems to be the breaking point. There are times when the difficulty of mustering patience is beyond description. I am facing an interesting shared experience of challenged patience at the moment.

I wrote a Groundcover column in the summer of 2014 about the early plastic weed-suppression stage for our Monarch Waystation here at Mayfield United Church of Christ in rural Sycamore, Illinois. Our Waystation is one

of hundreds of local efforts to restore a milkweed-rich habitat for the Monarch butterflies' endangered annual migration from Mexico to Canada and back again.

The Waystation was a dream in the fall of 2013 when we received a small grant to use as seed money. Two summers ago a huge swirl of black plastic was laid out on the west side of my house, from Memorial Day weekend until the end of July, to organically kill the invasive growth beneath it. Our hope, then and now, was to be as sparing as possible in our use of chemicals in this project. The placement of the plastic in 2014 was delayed for weeks because of the need for the land to continue to thaw out from the severe polar vortex the winter had brought. Keeping the black plastic anchored to the ground was a daily challenge in the face of steady prairie winds that summer.

**"In a large-scale or prolonged effort, it can be easy to have tunnel vision... singly focused on the important product or end result."**

The time did arrive when the plastic came up, and 28 yards of mulch were hauled, shoveled and raked into place. That fall 13 bushes were planted before the long dormant time of another winter. The growing season of 2015 was largely a battle with the rabbits as we tried to keep plants alive beyond their gnawing teeth. Summer of 2016's combination of abnormal heat levels punctuated with periodic heavy rain was good for garden growth. Plants and shrubs flourished.

The Mayfield Monarch Waystation, where our tag line is "Sharing the Journey," has come a long way in just a few years. We are several growing seasons away from its full

development, for the survival of the Monarchs, and for the meditative and educational enjoyment of any who stop by to see it.

One of our most committed gardeners

and planners has had trouble this summer with wanting it to be further along. She has struggled with being patient around where we are now. I realized then what a great advantage I have as the Waystation's next-door neighbor. Every day, I get to pause at my windows and watch for what is new. There is growth and ongoing subtle change in habitat. More birds are present, and various species of butterflies are showing up. When I hear her patience being strained, I have a standard response: "remember the plastic." I follow with stories about what I have seen that week, when neither she nor the other Waystation tenders have been there.

In a large-scale or prolonged effort, it can be easy to have tunnel vision – often impatient tunnel vision – singly focused on the important product or end result. Then the long seasons of process are like being in perpetual weeds. That's when those who remember – whose vision is wide and who have stories to tell – are welcome voices, encouraging us to treasure the steps along the way.

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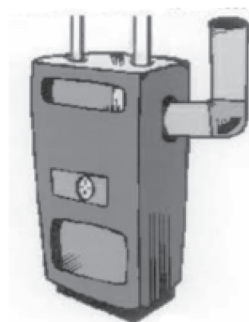
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## Regents election matters – meet the candidates

by **Persephone Hernandez-Vogt**  
U-M Graduate Student Contributor

Facebook feeds fixate on Clinton and Trump, but Ann Arbor voters will decide on more than our next President this November. Several statewide seats and local offices will open up to the democratic process, ranging from the school and library boards to Congressional and State legislative candidates. One statewide race in particular has a disproportionate impact on Ann Arbor: the University of Michigan Board of Regents election.

The University of Michigan (U-M) has a tremendous impact on Ann Arbor's economy, as well as the economies of Flint and Dearborn, which have their own U-M campuses. According to its Community Relations website, U-M has created over 4,000 jobs in the past five years, and 40 percent of employees live in Ann Arbor. Students contribute an estimated \$94.9 million a year to the local economy, excluding money spent on groceries and housing. The University Health System (UHS) is also part of the institution's budget.

Since the Board of Regents' function is to supervise the University and control and direct its expenditures, all of these entities can be influenced by the Board and its composition. Recent Board decisions, for instance, include the approval of an affiliation agreement for Metro Health Corporation to join UHS; the launch of a strategic plan on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; renovation of the Michigan Union on State Street; and the passage of an ordinance regulating drones in University airspace. The Board also votes to approve tenure appointments for U-M faculty and decides on tuition increases.

There are eight seats on the board, and two seats are up for election every two years. This year, incumbents Larry Deitch (D) and Denise Ilitch (D) are

running for reelection against Bridgette Abraham-Guzman (NLP), Audra Driscoll (UST), Richard Hewer (UST), James L Hudler (L), John Jascob (L), Carl Meyers (R), Latham Redding (G), and Ron Weiser (R).

Deitch, Ilitch, Jascob, and Meyers were the only candidates to respond to requests for comment. All four expressed concerns about keeping the University of Michigan affordable.

Replying by email, Deitch emphasized that financial hardship can make college inaccessible, and gave examples of his work with the board to counter this. "Recently, as a board, we passed a policy to provide in-state tuition to DREAMers admitted to the University," he wrote. "That same day, we opened our doors to all United States veterans by offering in-state tuition across the University of Michigan system to those who have served."

Ilitch cited her long-standing voting record opposing tuition increases. "I have voted six times AGAINST a tuition increase," she wrote via email. "Students shouldn't have to mortgage their future to have one." She also suggested that a Commission on Alternative Revenue might find ways to fund cost increases, "instead of on the backs of students and working families."

Jascob also spoke out against tuition increases. "I will oppose tuition increases and work to reduce administrative costs by privatizing non-essential, non-academic services," he commented via email. "In addition [...] I advocate decentralizing the Ann Arbor, Dearborn, and Flint campuses to reduce administrative costs and increase student and faculty autonomy."

Meyers called for a tuition freeze for Michigan resident students, saying his decision to run came from conversa-

tions with families about the affordability of college. "As a wealth manager and advisor to families, I came to realize that financial accessibility to U-M was becoming out of reach for most, and action was needed."

When asked why he decided to run for Regent, Meyers emphasized tuition increases and pointed to his experience in finance and board governance.

Jascob, when asked the same, explained, "I am deeply committed to the ideal of free academic inquiry in a free society. I believe that the University must zealously protect free speech and open debate on campus." He also cited the rising cost of tuition.

Asked about her proudest moment as Regent, Ilitch explained that she is proud to be a Regent because of her role "advocating for and helping students, and making a difference in their lives. I advocate for an accessible, affordable

and quality education for all Michigan students."

Deitch, meanwhile, recalled a situation that occurred during his first term as Regent in 1993. "A group of LGBT faculty who were then facing an unfriendly working environment and feeling very unsupported by the University approached me to ask for help. ...[M]y colleague Rebecca McGowan and I took on their cause and went on a roadshow to talk to our fellow Regents to convince them that we had to do something. By the time we were done, the Board voted 7-1 to extend domestic partnership benefits to University employees, and to add sexual orientation to the University's non-discrimination policy."

Regents serve eight-year terms and do not receive compensation from the University for their service on the board.

## Voter registration

**The deadline to register to vote in the November 2016 election is October 11.**

You can register in person at any Secretary of State office; alternatively, you can visit the Clerk's office of the township or city where you live and then be eligible to vote in person or by absentee ballot. If you register any other way, you will have to vote in person. Be prepared to present a method of photo ID when you vote or register in person and want an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will be available through November 5.

The Ann Arbor City Clerk's office will open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., prior to the General Election. There will also be special hours for absentee ballots, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5. The City Clerk's office is located on the second floor of Larcom City Hall, 301 E. Hu-

ron St., Ann Arbor, Mi., 48104.

The Ypsilanti City Clerk's office is located at One South Huron St., Ypsilanti, Mi. 48197 and is open from 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. It will also be open on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. for electors who wish to receive an absentee ballot.

The Ypsilanti Township Clerk is located at 7200 S. Huron River Dr., Ypsilanti, Mi., 48197 and is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (closed noon - 1:00 p.m. daily).

More information, absentee ballot requests forms, registration forms and clerk addresses for other townships can be found by visiting the website [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

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## Utopias and dystopias: how to build a better world right now

(Part Three in a three-part series)

by Karen Totten and Noah Burns

*"If nothing we do matters, then all that matters is what we do."*

– Tim Minear, from the television series *Angel*

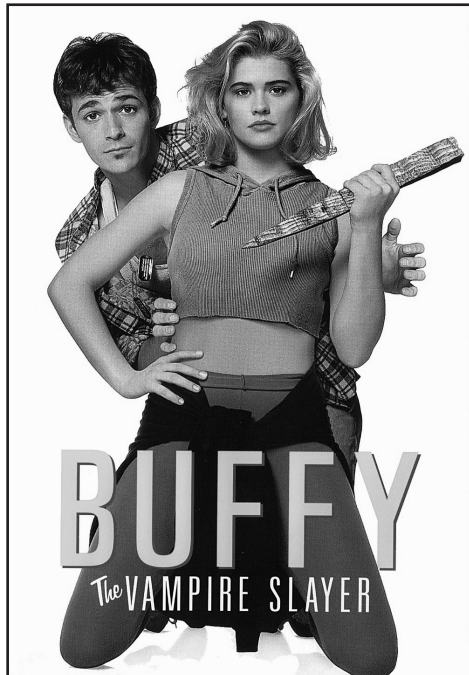
*"True Art is transformation, taking the things of this world and turning them into something that has meaning."*

– Noah Burns

Robots with self-awareness. Personal drones that can fire handguns. Nano-technology to help root out disease. Self-driving cars whizzing by on the highway. Printable organs and food. Not the stuff of science fiction. Not a hundred years away in the making. All either already invented or well on their way.

The future is here. Is it what we hoped it would be? What kind of world do we want to live in? These questions and others are ones we all face now – not in 10 years, or five, or even riding on the back of the next elected President.

Many people are looking for a strong leader to be our salvation, to take us out of the pain of poverty, war, climate disaster, racism, sexism. Many hoped Obama was going to be a savior, and without discrediting the many accomplishments he has managed, there is so much more to be done and a few things to be undone.



Grace Lee Boggs, late Detroit native and social activist, stated in the documentary, *The Next American Revolution*, that we need to cast aside the idea that help is coming from without, like the cavalry stomping over the mountain to rescue us. Rather, we need to embrace instead the notion that "we are the leaders we are looking for." Each of us. The people. Members of an (ideally) participatory democracy that works cooperatively for the common good.

To get to a future that better reflects the positives of humanity, one needs to re-imagine one's role in society. The key word is "imagine."

That is how fiction, drama, and stories – some of the arts of transformation –

can help.

Author Rachel Naomi Remen said, "Sometimes we need stories more than food." She speaks to the idea that stories sustain us when times are dark: they inspire us to think and act when we see no hope. Our stories are the scripts for helping the world make sense.

### ***Buffy – avatar of democracy***

One work of drama that has much to say about what kind of world is possible is Joss Whedon's television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (BTVS), which aired in the late 1990s to early 2000s, and is still available on Netflix or DVD. Buffy, when first we meet her, is an ordinary teenage girl obsessed with boys, fashion, and friends. She learns, reluctantly, that she is the Chosen One, the Slayer, whose destiny it is to kill vampires, demons, and the forces of darkness that threaten the world. Heavy load for a 16-year-old.

But this series is more than a teen melodrama. BTVS has a lot to say about power and how it should be used. While literally speaking, Buffy is not battling the Koch Brothers or the corporate elites who wish to dominate the political and economic landscape (that's another Whedon series, *Angel*), she nonetheless fights the demons we each meet around us and within us every day. She battles the incarnations of the very causes of evil, not its mere representations or by-products.

The adage goes that power corrupts (and absolute power corrupts absolutely), but this statement is not complete. Whedon shows us that power is corruption. For example, in Season 3, Buffy battles the Sunnydale mayor who is a representation of the will for power absent of concern for other people. He

wants to ascend, become greater than anyone else. Even more, this power is tied to the patriarchy, as indicated by his name, Richard, and the fact that he turns into a giant serpent. Insecurity leads to power, which leads to evil.

A world in which power is shared and infinitely multiplied among us all, obviates the need for a master/slave relationship, that lopsided situation in which one person or a group is subservient to the needs and desires of another person or group.

Hence, in the end, Buffy saves the world not by being a Savior, the One, but by sharing with every potential slayer around the world the strength needed to survive in this messy, dangerous reality.

### ***Harry Potter – savior ordinaire***

Another piece of fiction that speaks to the idea of rebelling against corrupt power systems, supposedly written for children, is J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. In these seven books, covering Harry's life from age 10 to 17, Rowling describes an average young boy who discovers that he, reluctantly, is a hero, destined to help save the wizarding world from evil.

Harry does this by never forgetting how to love. Dumbledore, his headmaster at Hogwarts School, reminds him that it is our choices, far more than our talents, that determine who we are – a very existentialist statement.

The takeaway is not that one must be fated or hand-chosen to do good, but rather that ordinary, everyday people like Harry have the courage within, the heart, to rise up and fight the "monsters" who seek to control us.

see UTOPIAS, page 9

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## House by the Side of the Road re-locates again

by Susan Beckett

The House by the Side of the Road is much like any thrift shop, with racks of gently-used clothing, shoes, and a small array of toys. The only drastic exception is that everything at The House is free. Since 1969, The House has served the community by collecting household items and redistributing them to those in need.

Earlier this year, the House moved to its current location on South State Street, just up the street from the Salvation Army and Produce Station. They moved because their previous location off Ellsworth Road had proven to be unsuitable and costly. For nearly 40 years prior to that, they had been housed by Washtenaw County. Living rent-free allowed them to amass a \$200,000 rainy day fund that has since been used up.

They now have a bus stop right at the door of the building they share with the Fresh Start Club. The rent is less than they were paying before since the building is owned by the Ufer family, who wanted to rent to a community organization. Like most donors, the Ufer's appreciated that the household items, bedding, clothing, children's books and toys that are donated to the House are then given away free to people in need.

The four or more friendly volunteers who work at the House each day enjoy the much-improved layout and the ample windows which make everything look more inviting. They pay great at-



Assistant manager Flossie Robinson arranges clothes displays at House by the Side of the Road.

tention to displaying things so patrons can easily see everything without rummaging through a pile. Patrons appreciate being able to come in and select items themselves and avail themselves of a bathroom, should the need arise.

Robert Ufer, Jr., son of the legendary University of Michigan broadcaster Bob Ufer, will be the Master of Ceremonies at a gala on October 19 to benefit the House. Ufer recalled that his grandmother had volunteered at the house long ago.

Proceeds from the gala, titled "Envisioning the Future," will enable the House to stay open and protect against future setbacks. Despite the low rent, utility costs are extremely high. The

gala will be held at Weber's and the \$100-per-person tickets include dinner of salmon or steak, two drinks and entertainment.

Many of the current volunteers and donors have family ties to the house. The mother of assistant manager Flossie Robinson used to go the house to get diapers for Robinson's children.

Another volunteer, Pat Holt, got items from the House 35 years ago when she was a struggling single mother. When she retired from the County Friend of the Court system, she remembered the House when she was ready donate many of her work outfits and clothes that no longer fit her after she lost 150 pounds. On a subsequent trip three

years ago when she was donating a neighbor's clothes, she realized that she needed another activity in her life and asked about volunteering.

This all-volunteer nonprofit started as an outreach program through a network of local churches. They still receive a substantial number of goods through the faith community. Most of the House's support has come from committees of various churches, and some of the volunteers found their way to the House that way. Carole Hunter, who used to donate clothing to the House, has been volunteering there for 16 years, ever since she retired from teaching. One recent shopper who touched her heart was a refugee from Afghanistan whose wife spoke no English. They picked up some needed household items and clothes and were very grateful for the help and of the freedom they enjoyed living in this country.

Angel Thomas, a champion sorter, has been with the House for 22 years. It is obvious that the volunteers enjoy each other and their patrons.

Prudy Dittmar reflected on how newly released prisoners take so little and the staff has to urge them to take more than one item of clothing. All the volunteers were impressed by the consideration of the shoppers who make an effort to leave desirable items for others.

On every shelf is a note stating how

see HOUSE, page 10



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PARISH

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Fr. James Conlon

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# Kung Fu Panda is her name, staying cool is her game

by Susan Beckett

Cindy, also known as Kung Fu Panda, has added selling expertise to her list of skills. She started as a clueless Groundcover News vendor in July of 2015. She credits Shelley for helping her select selling locations, Lit for sharing sales strategies and Diahann for helping her increase her confidence and be more assertive. Back then, she was pleased if she could sell 150 copies a month. Today she sells more than 600.

This acceleration in sales follows her decision to no longer be a low-income, housing-insecure person, an identity she fell into after returning from Alaska, where she had gone to meet the birth family that had given her up as an infant. While there, she became involved in an abusive relationship with a man who had a teenage daughter. She stayed with him until the daughter turned 18, and then she “jumped off the cliff” and left.

Her birth family still suffered from the alcoholism that resulted in Cindy’s Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), so she left them in Alaska and returned to Michigan where she had finished high school. Upon her return, the six people she made friends with were homeless, and Cindy chose to join them rather than impose herself on the parents who raised her. She palled around with this group for over a year.

“They showed me the ropes, especially Ralph, Laurie and Steve,” Cindy recollected.

They showed her where to eat – community meals and restaurant back doors on specific days when sympathetic staff was on hand – where and how to get clothes from St. Vincent DePaul, and where to sleep – the Methodist Church.

“It was a really safe location and that’s why we picked it,” Cindy said. They slept on the side of the church, facing what



Cindy’s favorite selling spot is the downtown Ann Arbor District Library at S. Fifth Ave. and E William St..

was then the Campus Inn, because it had enough traffic and light to feel safe but not so much that it was disturbing.

They moved on to tents along the river. After being given 72 hours’ notice to leave, they moved half a mile down the river until they were chased again six months later.

Despite the anxiety that came with forced relocation, Cindy never tried to get a bed at a shelter. She has authority issues and took to heart her friends’ cautionary words. “Don’t assume the system will work for you,” they warned her. “They have huge expectations that are hard to meet. And they don’t help you with the baggage that makes you homeless in the first place.”

This lack of counseling is especially distressing to Cindy, as she sees it carry over to people who get housing. Their same old problems get hold of them and they often wind up back on the streets. She is also upset about society’s “flavor of the month” (or decade) reaction to disabilities. She maintains that it was easy to qualify for Social Security Insurance disability for FAS

when she was young, much as it now is for autism. However, she did not apply until her adult years when she found that FAS impeded her ability to work. Her application was denied.

Doubly hit with a disability and homelessness, Cindy has attempted to deal with her problems in a variety of ways. She has difficulty remembering and organizing due to the FAS so she has huge calendars everywhere that she uses to help her.

She moderates her emotions with her martial arts training:

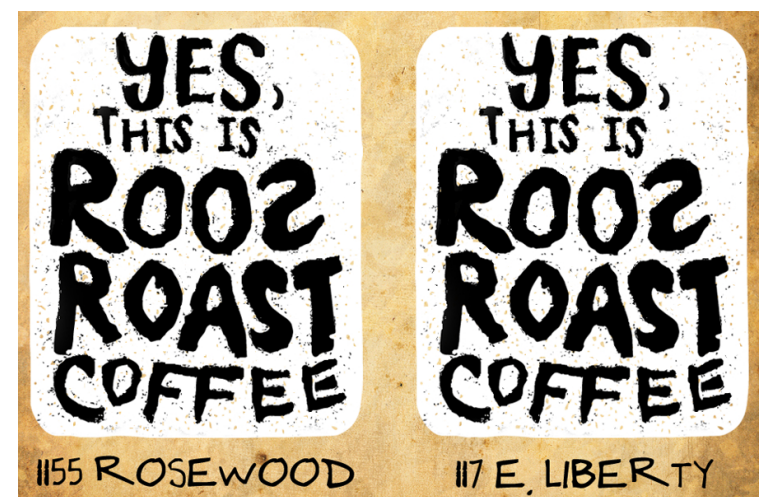
“I am a very cool-headed person because of my martial arts training. You learn to suspend reality and not put yourself in an emotional state if someone is attacking you. Today I am having a bad day, so I just did karate

on homelessness. I’m going to take my heart and put it on top of that building and I’ll just gut it out and sell my papers. I don’t know why people have to be so mean sometimes,” Cindy said.

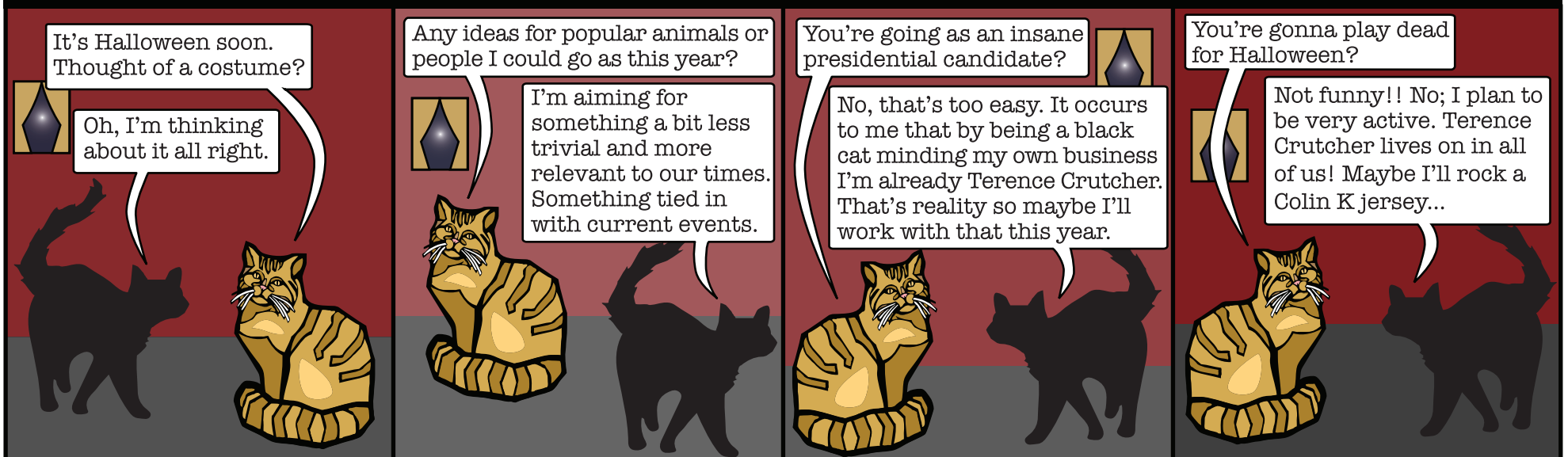
“You learn to face the enemy head-on and not internalize negativity. I had a huge insecurity and fear of what people would think of me based on my being homeless. Once a group of college students stood across from where I was selling and stared and laughed at me. It cut me to the core. They don’t know my background or anything about me. Now I kill them with kindness or totally block them out,” Cindy continued.

When she revealed her status as a fourth-in Budjikan taught by Ninjitsu Otto Cardue, a new friend from the Occupy Movement exclaimed, “I have the perfect street name for you because you are always so happy. You’re Kung Fu Panda; you’re so cool!” And it stuck.

Cindy has reconnected with her family and become an elite salesperson. As such, she has priority at a corner of her choosing. Her short-term goal is to continue selling at least 600 papers each month so she can retain that status. Ultimately, she would love to put her artistic talent and education to good use and work in an art gallery, wrapping paintings and assisting customers.



## Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2016





## Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

6		8		3	4			
9	5	4		6				
7	1						5	
	3	2						1
	4			7			2	
5						8	4	
	8						1	3
				9		4	8	5
			4	8		9		2

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## Cryptoquote:

P OWKN USVPINA NKNU ZNSZHN  
EOS IHWPT NKNLJVOPUB PC  
ZLNANCVPUNA, WUA VOWV EN  
IWU AS USVOPUB VS IOWUBN PV,  
HSSG XNDSL N VONJ ILSCC VON  
LSWA.  
— CVNZONU OWEGPUB

Clue:  $\odot = \text{g}$

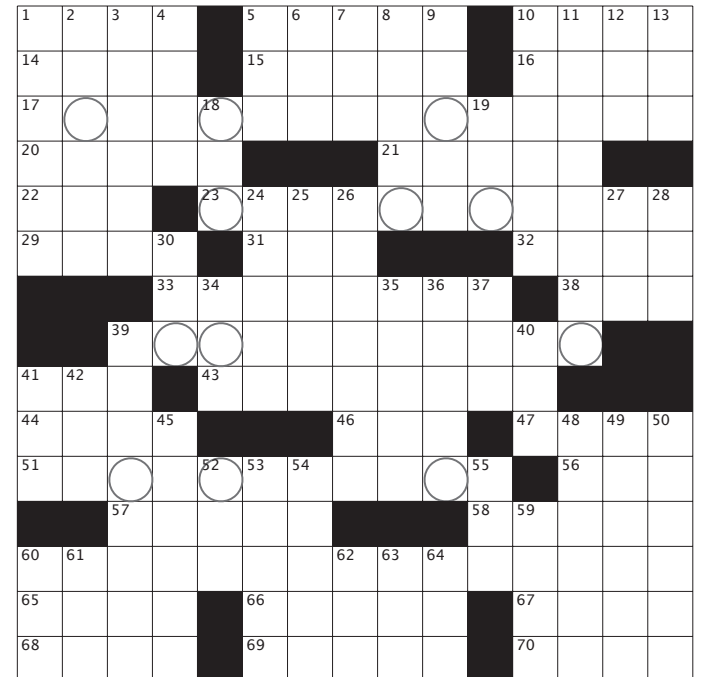
Cool Dudes Peter A. Collins

### ACROSS

- Zhivago's love
- Baccarat call
- Big screen
- Farm team?
- For all to hear
- Radar O'Reilly's drink of choice
- All-time NBA rebound leader
- \_\_\_ flood
- Radar O'Reilly, for one
- Khan once married to Rita Hayworth
- Co-founder of calculus
- Soviet news source
- Watson's company
- Trig function
- Dieter's concern
- Encountered
- "Mary Poppins" costar
- DOJ agcy.
- Lemons, maybe
- Off-road rides, briefly
- "Ten thousand saw \_\_\_ a glance": Wordsworth
- Golden Rule preposition
- Producer of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album
- Epitome of slipperiness
- Gymnast Comaneci of the '76 Olympics
- Hemmed and \_\_\_
- Eugene O'Neill play (and a hint to this puzzle's circled letters)
- Round end?
- Party founded by Menachem Begin
- Worker protection agcy.
- Prohibition advocates
- Campus bigwigs
- Proofreader's mark

### DOWN

- Like some yogurt
- Armpit, anatomically
- Meet components
- Aardvark snacks
- Ebenezer's exclamation
- Chicken-King connector
- Brigitte Bardot, par exemple



© Peter A. Collins (Published via Across Lite)

- Third degree, in math class
- "\_\_\_ a Grecian Urn" (Keats poem)
- They're obtained on one's wedding day
- Intervening interval
- Tuna type
- Mark, as a ballot
- Greek letter between phi and psi
- Monogram of "The Sage of Concord"
- What jockeys wear over their jockey shorts
- Outranking
- Where many oldies first aired
- Slope of  $y = x + 2$
- End of some e-mail addresses
- Bio or chem
- Start to pressure?
- Early South American
- Chat room appointment
- Turk. neighbor
- How Morgan Freeman acted in "Bruce Almighty"?
- Big 12 sch.
- Online help page
- AC unit
- Escargots
- Most recent
- Act like a baby?
- Not the most recent
- Atlanta-based health org.
- Word on a yellow triangle
- Fox of "Django Unchained"
- HBO alternative
- "Famous" cookie maker
- Unknown, on a sked
- 2013 Best Picture nominee
- Letters on a rap sheet
- Sister
- Some IRA options

## Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

**All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:**

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:  
contact@groundcovernews.com  
734-707-9210



## Bethlehem United Church of Christ

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-665-6149

*Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office*

### Sunday Worship Times

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Sunday school at 10:15 am

Fellowship Hour follows each service

### October Community Events – Welcome!

- October 1 & 22** Football Parking at Bethlehem (proceeds benefit our youth programs)
- October 6** German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 am – 12 noon  
\$1 each or \$10 dozen
- October 7** Oktoberfest Picnic at Bethlehem, 6-9 pm  
Join us for a picnic-style dinner of German sausage or hot dogs, German potato salad, spatzten, sauerkraut, chips, desserts, beer and wine (for sale), coffee, water, lemonade. Tickets can be purchased at the church office or reserved by calling 734-665-6149. \$12/adults AND \$5/age 10 and under
- October 23** Benefit Concert, "Bach at Bethlehem," 4 pm in the Sanctuary
- October 28** German Pretzel Sales, 11 am – 2 pm  
\$1 each or \$10 dozen

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The war against texting & driving

by David Madden  
Groundcover Contributor

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, driving a vehicle while texting is six times more dangerous than driving while intoxicated, and another study found a “staggering” 57 percent of adults admitted to texting while behind the wheel in the past year.

As the War against Drinking & Driving has been so successful in reducing the number of intoxicated drivers on our streets and highways – down from approximately 10,000 drivers on any given weekend night in 2002, to 9,999 in 2015 – it only seems fitting that we should use the same tools from our policies on DUIs and applying them to texting and driving.

As we know, texting and driving has become a very serious threat to the safety of our community. One of my friends (true story) told me recently that he does not even like to text someone if he knows that they are driving for fear they may look at his text and crash their vehicle. We now know there are even risks associated with texting and walking, texting and hang gliding (!), and even texting while texting (using two phones to text at the same time, which

often results in texts going to the wrong intended recipient...oops).

While the ubiquity of the texting abuse in our society is, in and of itself, a problem worthy of our attention, the focus of this piece is on texting and driving. This is not only because that is where the most serious injuries happen, but also because (as we have done with DUI), by using “safety on the roads” as a cover, we can further our real goals of reducing civil liberties, getting more money from your average law-abiding citizens, and restoring our society to a time when sending “brief encrypted messages along with pictures sometimes” was a crime of moral turpitude.

Where, of course, we have the technological capacity to disable the text message feature if our phone is traveling at a speed over 10 miles an hour (indicating that someone may be driving), that would too much of a violation of our mobile communication freedom. Instead, we should continue to permit people to text and drive, but just make the penalties so severe that people will be too scared to text and drive.

For example, the first offense for an Operating While In-texticated should carry with it a fine similar to that of what we give first time DUI offenders:

up to a \$1000 dollar fine, six months of Textoholic Anonymous classes, one year of probation with restricted phone use including 90 days of no cell-phone use, with daily Preliminary Thumb Testing (PTTs) (have your thumb tested every day for phone residue that would indicate texting the night before), and then after that permit only business-related texting for the rest of the year. Also there should be a point system allocated for phone users, so that when you do get your phone privileges restored (after paying \$1000 dollars for two years plus a \$250 dollar phone restoration fee to the State), you will also have six points against you so that now your phone service provider can legally double or triple your rates.

You'd think that would do it, but, of course, what the War on Drinking and Driving has taught us is that, for some people, getting caught once just isn't enough, and they will continue texting and driving because they are addicted to it or just get a kick out of being civilly disobedient. It's our job as a responsible community to help them.

For a second offense, rather than just doubling all the court costs and fines and sending them to jail for several months (which we will probably end up doing, anyway, once they fail at the al-

ternative), we will give them the option of accepting Text-obriety Court. This will be a voluntary 18-month program – similar to Sobriety Court offered in many counties in Michigan – where the textoholic will finally have the resources they have been lacking to help them kick this nasty texting habit. Now they will have a support group of fellow textoholics, in-patient and out-patient textoholic rehab programs, daily PTTs, regular meeting with prohibition... probation officers to keep giving that positive reinforcement, and one-on-one weekly meetings with your friendly neighborhood Judge to make sure you are abiding by all the rules. It'll be just like really expensive kindergarten all over again!

I have written two opinion pieces on the War on Drinking and Driving. The first – “Rethink the Business of DUIs,” was published in The Detroit News on January 19, 2015. The second, titled “The War on Drinking and Driving,” has yet to find a source willing to publish it. This is my third piece and it is intended solely as a satirical commentary on the absurdities of our misdirected, excessively punitive for-profit justice system – although, sadly, I am sure some people will read this and think it is a good idea.

Utopias and dystopias

continued from page 5

sters” who seek to control us.

You might argue that Harry has magical abilities that mere mortals do not. J. K. Rowling addresses this notion that some people are more special and able than others (“some people can do it, but I can't”) when she says that most events in Hogwarts are either not solved by magic at all, or are made substantially worse by it. Even magic folk have to sort life out by using their intellect, hands and heart.

Harry's fight against evil places him at odds with the establishment, which becomes corrupt in the face of unraveling events. He refuses to cooperate with the Ministry of Magic (wizard government) when it becomes clear it is concealing Voldemort's return in order to protect its own power base.

Likewise, the media of Harry's world, the mainstream Daily Prophet, is participating in the cover-up and has become corrupted as well. Harry is under pressure to conform, but instead he trusts himself and says “no” to the powers that be.

Rebellion

J.K. Rowling was heavily influenced by her studies of the Classics at university and by her work with Amnesty International, where she met individuals who, at great personal cost, stood up and said “no” to the masters trying to control the lives of everyday people.

Joss Whedon was influenced by Nobel Prize-winning Algerian author Albert Camus, an absurdist who writes about the damage done to society by the master-slave paradigm, and its insistence that some “should” have power while others suffer under it.

And so we need to rebel. Not make a revolution, but rebel. Revolution, Camus says, seeks to replace the old master/slave relationship with a new master and new slaves. Nothing essential changes. To rebel, however, is to assert individuality and to recognize one's own power to fight the evil of centralized corruption.

Rebellion also means saying no to a life as a consumer, as a cog in a machine in a materialistically ordered world. Camus' novels, including The Stranger, The Fall, The Plague, are dystopian novels of the soul. He documents and diagnoses the symptoms of nihilism (nothing we do matters, so why try?) that arise in the human spirit after an encounter with the absurd. He writes about how men and women react to the realization that the world has no ultimate meaning.

But, as Camus writes in The Rebel, a collection of philosophical essays, every time we stop accepting the inevitability of a mundane reality, every time the “slave” says “no” to the master, is a step toward genuine freedom. Every time we stop being passive in the face of difficulty (what's to be done about gun violence or poverty?) and begin to assert our humanity, creating our own paths, we take one more step toward abolishing the monsters – the unequal relationships created by unequal distribution of power.

Rebellion leads not to anarchy, but to a new way of imagining one's relationship to the world. It is a new story to tell ourselves – what we do matters – and leads to release from the prison of the status quo. As Buffy says in Season 7 of the series, “Make your choice. Are you ready to be strong?”

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1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 X 6.5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	5 X 14 or 10 X 6.5
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10 X 14

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## Sanctuary Cities reborn

by Martin Stolzenberg  
Groundcover Contributor

The concept of sanctuary cities really derives from an ancient imperative “to provide hospitality to the stranger.” Sanctuary cities were used in ancient Israel for several thousand years until the fall of the Second Temple in the year 70 CE. In the Torah it speaks of “sanctuary cities” in Numbers 35:16 saying, “When it is proven that a person killed unintentionally he is banished to one of the six cities of refuge... to protect him from the vengeance of the slain man’s relatives.”

What the Bible calls unintentional in today’s legal circles we would call accidental. For example, a man was repairing a roof. Suddenly, a pile of tiles he was working with on the roof falls and killed a child who was walking in the street below.

The roofer didn’t intend to hurt the child; it was an accident. Unfortunately for him, the father or other closest relative of the dead child was required to avenge the death by slaying the murderer – “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” This was his right and obligation. It existed because there were no police and no prisons. That was a way of bringing about justice, however inappropriate it seems to us today.

But there was an out. The roofer had a right to seek asylum in one of these sanctuary cities or cities of refuge in the case of an accidental death. If he made

it there, a court would be convened to decide whether he was completely free of any guilt or responsibility in the death of the child. If it was decreed truly accidental, he was returned to the city of refuge. There he couldn’t be touched by the child’s family as long as he stayed in the city boundaries. This prevented hasty executions and injustices.

Ancient Rome and Greece also had cities of refuge, but they also allowed criminals to use them. In the Middle Ages seeking sanctuary in a church was a legal option for accused felons. Sanctuaries enabled communities to adjust the law to exceptional circumstances by delaying prosecution.

Sanctuary cities are now back in business. And, you know where this civilized act of compassion is happening? It is right here in the good old U.S. of A. It is tied up with with immigration. During the 1980s local officials began to designate their cities as sanctuary cities in order to prevent police from inquiring about the immigration status of those arrested for other reasons. They were, in effect, thumbing their noses at federal laws.

Proponents of sanctuary cities felt that local police shouldn’t have to implement the national immigration law if they didn’t want to. It seems that the drafters of the Federal law 8 U.S. Code 31252c agreed. It states that, “State and local law enforcement officials are authorized to arrest and detain indi-

viduals who are illegally present in the United States...” It doesn’t say that they are compelled to arrest them, only that they are authorized to do so. Authorizing is defined as “having official permission or approval.” In other words, it is left to the local community to decide.

A lot of them have opted in to sanctuaries. In the United States there are more than 300 sanctuary cities, counties and states according to USA Today of July 6, 2016. Some of the prominent American cities are Washington, D.C., New York City, Jersey City, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Dallas, Houston, Detroit, Chicago, Minneapolis, Miami and Denver. Current sanctuary states are California, Connecticut, New Mexico and Colorado. In Canada, Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario have declared themselves as sanctuary cities since 2014.

The issue of immigration, of course, is at the forefront now sparked by the presidential candidacy of Republican, Donald Trump. Hillary Clinton has defended sanctuary cities and feels they help public safety.

Opposition to what these cities are doing becomes more vehement when a murder occurs that is carried out by an illegal immigrant.

In places where there are large numbers of illegal immigrants, there is greater law enforcement cooperation. The most outstanding of these is Tucson, Arizona where the sheriff, Joe Arpaio, for years has aggressively pursued illegal immi-

grants. It got to be such a problem that he was tried for excessive actions of this type. He was found guilty and is currently appealing this verdict.

From time to time politicians have sought to introduce legislation that would hold back government funds from communities that do not authorize checks on illegal authorization. To date, these attempts have been defeated by liberal members of Congress.

One reason why police favor such sanctuary city policies is that they feel they can’t get illegal immigrants to trust them if they are viewed as agents who will deport them if they come forward to report crimes. They also do not want to break up the overwhelming number of decent, hardworking immigrant families. These police will only keep undocumented immigrants in custody for federal agents if they have a court order or warrant.

Of course this angers many law-and-order proponents and those who feel strongly opposed to illegal immigration. I suggest that, instead of attacking sanctuary cities, Congress should pay attention to them. Deportation is a breach of a civil law, not a criminal act.

Sanctuary mitigates the failing that our laws do not protect the needs of the stranger who seeks to work in our country, often at jobs others do not want. Rather than prosecuting them we should be passing laws to make them a legal part of the community.

## House by the Side of the Road

continued from page 6

many of each item can be taken during a shopping trip. The limits change depending on how robust the inventory of those items is at the time. For example, the normal limit for sweaters is two but because inventory is high at the moment, the limit is now four. Shoppers can drop in any time the House is open but they are limited to shopping once every three months, which provides for once each season. Bedding can be procured every six months. Local hotels help out tremendously with donations of bedding, towels and toiletries.

Though they don’t formally offer other types of help, the volunteers do try to help patrons who need to be connected with needed services. Recently, volunteer Racine Hunter worked with an out-of-town shopper who had been sent to the House upon release by the University of Michigan hospital. She shared that she had spent the previous night sleeping under a bridge and had

nowhere to go. Hunter drove her to the Delonis Center where she got some help.

Sometimes they take the show on the road, bringing clothing items to food pantry distributions. That inspired Derrick Miller, director of the Bryant Community Center, to request items that they could put out at their community picnic.

For more on the history and background of the House, visit our website archives and read the article about them that we published in the October 2011 issue of Groundcover News.

The House is located in a two-story brick building at 2051 South State St. They are open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. each day, but the last entry time for shoppers and item donation is 2 p.m. Donations can be dropped off in the rear of the building. For more information on volunteering or attending the gala, call (734) 769-4085. You can also visit their website: [housebythesideoftheroad.org](http://housebythesideoftheroad.org).

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**JAMIE & ROBIN AGNEW**



## Boober Tours: vendor's update



Kevin and his employees outside thier new retail space.

by Kevin Spangler  
Groundcover Vendor #307

Boober Tours is my pedicab company. We drive people around town in our bicycle-powered cabs. We offer campus and city tours as well as rides in specialized pedicabs equipped for karaoke, photo booths, and so on. I have been discussing ordinances with City Council, so Boober Tours can work together with the community to keep our streets and patrons safe.

On Thursday, September 15, I moved into a commercial storage building that has an office and a garage to put all my pedicabs in. I had been looking on Craigslist and even driving my pedicab everywhere to try to find a spot, but had no luck until now. The landlord chose me over seven other people who wanted to rent that space.

Being able to show my articles from Groundcover was a big help in showing that I have turned my life around. Boober headquarters will be great place for my motivational meetings to get everyone pumped up for the night helping people from place to place.

I was also contacted again by a local pedicab operator who was quitting the business and I purchased my seventh pedicab and a bunch of extra parts. They are definitely needed in this business, especially in Michigan where the roads beat up these pedicabs. Maintaining these pedicabs is a full 40 hours a week's worth of work.

I plan on pedicabbing year-round now that I have three all-weather canopies and just need one more. I went all-in with this business. After going through the budgeting class, I have planned out my spending plan until April. My goal is to pay all bills up to April over the next three months. In the winter months, I will be investing, learning and developing a new pedicab at Maker Works, a 14,000-square-foot facility that has all the tools you could dream of and pay just \$90 a month to use. You do have to go through a training course for each machine to make sure you know how to use everything properly. I am dreaming of a pedicab with the least amount of maintenance. Boober Tours – the only way!

## Surviving without a check: Lady M

As told to La Shawn Courtwright  
Groundcover vendor #56

*(Editor's note: This is part of a series of investigations into the survival strategies used by people who receive no paycheck or cash assistance. Our thanks to Luke Schaeffer, of the University of Michigan School of Social Work and author of \$2 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America for commissioning these works and generously sharing them with us.)*

I live under a bridge with other homeless people. I also couch surf – or sometimes rent a motel room. I rip off people who pick me up off of Michigan Avenue

in Ypsilanti, Michigan. In the car, I tell them to pull into an area where I know that I can run and get away quickly without them being able to see where I went. I also panhandle and get money from people who know that I have nowhere to go. (They work close to the bridge I sleep under when I have no place to go.)

I've also stayed at my drug dealer's house when I spent my money with him. I've also slept in abandoned houses for shelter. I survived off of eating Oreo cookies and bottled water. I'm currently incarcerated.

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## Slander ruins lives

by Pauline Burnat  
Groundcover Vendor #351

On my second day as a Groundcover vendor, a young man of about 30 approached me and said, "The Groundcover people cheat their customers. They're only supposed to charge a dollar for the paper, but some of them charge five or ten."

If this accusation spreads, it will hurt the livelihood of Groundcover vendors and employees, who desperately need their jobs. As a Groundcover vendor,

we are not allowed to ask for more than the price of the newspaper. We have the monthly newspaper that costs a dollar, and another special anthology that sells for 10. However, there are many kind-hearted people that give us donations of an extra dollar, five, or ten. We are allowed to accept these donations from generous, caring people.

Let's always be sure we get the facts correct. I'm homeless because of my neighbors' slander against me; slander hurts and ruins lives.

## Cryptoquote Solution

I have noticed even people who claim everything is predestined, and that we can do nothing to change it, look before they cross the road.

– Stephen Hawking

6	2	8	5	3	4	1	9	7
9	5	4	1	6	7	2	3	8
7	1	3	9	2	8	6	5	4
8	3	2	6	4	9	5	7	1
1	4	6	8	7	5	3	2	9
5	9	7	3	1	2	8	4	6
4	8	9	2	5	6	7	1	3
2	6	1	7	9	3	4	8	5
3	7	5	4	8	1	9	6	2

1	L	A	R	A	5	B	A	N	C	O	10	I	M	A	X
14	O	X	E	N	15	A	L	O	U	D	16	N	E	H	I
17	W	I	L	T	18	C	H	A	M	B	19	E	R	L	A
20	F	L	A	S	H	21	I	O	W	A	N	22	A	L	Y
23	I	S	A	A	24	C	N	E	W	T	25	O	N	26	S
27	T	A	S	S	28	I	B	M	29	S	I	N	E	30	M
31	C	A	L	O	R	I	E	S	32	M	E	T	33	D	I
34	C	I	C	K	V	A	N	D	35	Y	K	E	36	F	I
37	U	S	E	D	C	A	R	S	38	A	T	V	S	39	I
40	I	A	T	41	U	N	T	O	42	Q	U	I	N	43	C
44	N	A	D	I	A	45	H	A	46	W	E	D	47	T	H
48	E	I	C	E	M	49	A	N	50	C	O	M	E	51	B
52	E	L	L	53	L	I	K	54	U	D	55	O	S	56	H
57	D	R	Y	S	58	D	E	A	59	N	S	60	S	61	T
62	S	T	E	T	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73



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by Elizabeth Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

### Ingredients:

*1 cup brown wild rice*

*Water\**

*1/2 teaspoon salt*

*1 teaspoon butter*

*2/3 cup dried cranberries*

*2/3 cup chopped, toasted pecans*

*1/4 cup sliced green onion*

*1 ½ tablespoon lemon juice*

*3 tablespoons olive oil*

*3/4 teaspoon sugar*

*1 ½ teaspoon grated orange peel*

*Salt and pepper*

**Directions:**

\* Use the amount of water for the rice called for in the instructions on the rice package. Make rice with water, salt and butter. Cool to room temperature.

In a medium bowl mix the rice, cranberries pecans and onions.

In a separate jar mix lemon juice, olive oil, orange peel, sugar, and salt and pepper to taste. Just before serving, mix dressing in with the rice mixture. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Delicious with baked chicken or turkey.

by James Woods  
Groundcover Vendor #103

Many people may not know Zack Spade was but he was a very cool guy. I first met Zack at my corner on Main and Liberty at the Cherry Republic. Over the years, he and I became pretty cool, chit-chatting together. One thing I learned about Zack was that, no matter what he was going through, he never let that affect his attitude. He always had a positive outlook.

I didn't really know much about his personal life but I didn't think he would deliberately go the way he did, through a heroin overdose. This really opened my eyes to how serious these drugs are. I've heard of people dying like that but having it happen to someone I saw on a regular basis, it really hit home.

Zack had gone to a treatment center and was in the process of turning his life around. There was an abrupt change, then he isolated himself and overdosed.

Zachary is truly loved and will be held in our hearts.

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